



# United States Adult Soccer Association Region I

USASA Region 1 Mid-year Meeting  
Hyatt Regency  
Newport Beach, California – October 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:00 a.m.

## Preliminary Matters/Agenda

Regional Director Fritz Marth started the Region I MYM meeting with a moment of silence for members of our Region I family lost since the AGM. Agenda accepted with the removal of discussion of ASL from the agenda.

## Roll Call & Credentials

Roll call was taken and Credentials Chairman Peter Pinori (ENY) gave credentials report:

<u>State Associations</u>		<u>Regional Leagues</u>	
CT	4	MSSL (not present)	-
DE (not present)	-	NPSL (not present)	-
ENY	5	USL-PDL (not present)	-
EPA	4	ASL	<u>1</u>
MD	2	Subtotal	1
MA	5		
MDCVA	5	<u>Officers</u>	
NH (not present)	-	Director (Fritz Marth)	1
NJ	4	Deputy Director (Tony Falcone)	1
PAW	3	Treasurer (John Kahmke/not present)	-
RI	2	Secretary (Scott Mapes)	<u>1</u>
VT (not present)	-	Subtotal	3
WNY	4		
WV	<u>2</u>		
Subtotal	40		
Total General Votes	44		

## Approval of Region I February 15, 2015 AGM Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

## Officers' & Committee Reports

**Secretary** – Scott Mapes, Regional Secretary, reminded membership to send state association updates to USASA office so web page may be kept current. Regional Deputy Director Tony Falcone pointed out that information should include any state association updates, not just board member changes.

**Treasurer** – John Kahmke, Regional Treasurer, was not present. The Treasurer’s report was given by Regional Deputy Director Tony Falcone. Tony presented the year-end report for 2015. The region has a surplus to date and no other income is expected by year end. Only outstanding debt will be administrative costs associated with the MYM.

**Referees** – Regional Referee Administrator Andy Weiss (MA) reported that the Region I training event was well received and that the Region should continue running the training event. Andy met with Rick Eddy from USSF and discussed USASA-USSF relations and assistance.

### **Unfinished/Ongoing Business**

**National Cups** – Regional I Deputy Directory Tony Falcone gave an update on status of USASA National Cups program. The NBOD voted to only administer the Amateur Cup. There will no longer be a USASA Open Cup since USSF is running the Lamar Hunt Open Cup. The NBOD also eliminated the O-30 Cup. Leadership for both Region I and Region II expressed their desire to continue both the Open and O-30 Cups. USASA will allocate \$15,000 as travel subsidy for teams in the Amateur Cup. John Zangrilli (NJ) expressed concern with loss of national level cup opportunities. Peter Pinori (ENY) echoed same concern. Fritz Marth urged the membership to continue discussion of cup concerns and noted when it comes to promoting and supporting the competitions at the NBOD, Region I is the leader. John Zangrilli (NJ) questioned the benefit of being a part of USASA if cups are no longer available to our membership. USASA President John Motta answered that from the USASA perspective these decisions need to be made on a business level and on the basis of the number of participation. John Motta said the intention is to make the USASA Amateur Cup the crown jewel of USASA competitions with full USASA support. John Motta also noted that historically the U-23 and O-30 are relatively new and there are now a great deal more tournament opportunities for these groups than it the past. Jim Antonakas (ASL) voiced his concern with loss of U-23 tournament. John Motta pointed out the lack of interest from other regions. Steve Flamhaft (ENY) urged the NBOD to look at creative ways to continue the U-23. Dave Borts (CT) suggested there are practical solutions that should be explored. Dave Laraba (WV) cautioned that the Region I passion and history for the cups is not shared by other regions but we should find a way to continue these competitions. Jim Bollinger (EPA) stated we should make decisions on services provided to the membership not simply on the basis of a business decisions. Sal Rapaglia (ENY) and Cesar Wasecki (MA) explained that the cost to participate is not the same across all regions. Cesar urged Region I to continue the cups programs on the regional level. John Motta acknowledged the great importance of the discussion but passion is not shared in all regions and therefore USASA decisions need to be made on a national level basis. He mentioned that the Open Cup is still being run by USSF, an O-30 bracket is still available at the Veterans Cup and the USL and NPSL now provide U-23 opportunities. Consensus among the membership was to continue the U-23 competition at the regional level.

**Regional Cups** –Tony Falcone and Gus Xikis (ENY) gave an update on schedule/dates and indicated a date summary will be sent out to all. Fritz Marth urged that Region I run U-23 and O-30 competitions - fee structure is in budget. Bill George (MD) and Cesar Waseki (MA) of the Regional Competitions Committee gave an update on an inaugural indoor event initiative for February 2016 – the Winter Indoor Classic. Committee is seeking Region I financial support. Fritz recommends the event be run by a point person(s). Cesar volunteered for North portion of Region I and Bill George for the South. Fritz Marth discussed the budget item request to support the event. An informal opinion poll shows Region I support. Fritz will add a \$5K line item in the 2016 budget for seed money as a placeholder. Cesar and Bill George will coordinate the tournament efforts.

**Adult Soccer Fest** - (formerly known as Veteran’s Cup) – Cesar Waseki (MA) announced that this year’s event will be held in Denver, CO July 2016.

## **Other Business**

Sal Rapaglia (ENY) brought to the Region's attention a referee complaint issue. Specifically, the case of a referee (CT-registered) publicly using an ethnically derogatory expression in reference to a youth team. Dan Rooney (CT) said the matter is being addressed.

Jim Bollinger (EPA) and Steve Flamhaft (ENY) gave an update on their initiative of assisting families of referees harmed or injured in the course of officiating games.

USASA Budget Amendments - John Motta gave an overview of three proposed USASA Budget amendments: 1) committee budget of \$500 raised to \$5,000; 2) Amateur Cup budget adjustments to increase travel subsidies; and 3) additional line item of \$2,000 per region for referee and coaches awards.

## **New Business**

### **Awards**

The 2015 Region I Coach of the Year Award was given to Blaise Santangelo of West Chester United (EPA), winners of the 2015 Werner Fricker Open Cup. Testimonies were given by Tony Falcone and Jim Bollinger (EPA).

The Rocco Amoroso Fair play Award was given to Newtown Pride (CT). It was accepted by Dan Rooney on behalf of the team.

The 2015 Region I Referee Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dilvo DiPlacido of Massachusetts. A testimonial was given by Andy Weiss (MA).

Sal Rapaglia (ENY) presented Anna Steffan with the Livio D'Arpino Award for service to the Region. A testimonial was given by Tony Falcone (MD).

**2016 Budget** – In the absence of Regional Treasurer John Kahmke, Deputy Director Tony Falcone presented the 2016 budget, which had previously been distributed for approval. Andy Weiss (MA) moved to adopt the budget. Jim Antonakas (ASL) seconded the motion. An amending motion was made to add \$5K for the regional indoor tournament. Jim Bollinger (EPA) moved to accept the amendment and Cesar Waseki (MA) seconded. The budget amendment was approved unanimously. An amending motion was made by Andy Weiss (MA) to increase the referee fees line item by \$1000 for 4th official. Andy's motion was seconded by Cesar Waseki (MA) and passed after discussion. An amending motion was made by Andy Weiss to add referee grade 6 training event funding at \$5K. This was seconded by Jim Bollinger (EPA) and passed after some discussion. The budget was then passed as amended.

**Winter Meeting** – It was discussed and decided that there is no need for a winter meeting as the AGM is already the last week in February 2016.

### **Good of the Game**

Fritz Marth focused the good of the game discussion on the Regional discussion of cups and the future of cups programs. The discussion was held with several USASA NBOD members present. Fritz urged the Region to espouse these concerns further at the National Council meeting.

Werner Fricker acknowledged the hard work of Fritz Marth and Tony Falcone on NBOD.

Tony Falcone announced that Bill George is the new secretary of the Maryland State Soccer Association.

Anna Steffan (MD) thanked the Region as she concluded her 31 years of service with the Maryland State Soccer Association and with the Region.

Dave Laraba (WVA) expressed deep and sincere appreciation for friendship and support from his Region I friends.

Keith Renner (PAW) expressed concern with loss of camaraderie at the “grass roots level” and the national office dictating too much. He noted that the volunteer base seems disenfranchised. A discussion over volunteer staff tasks followed.

### **Guests**

John Motta discussed the \$65,000 Nationwide Insurance sponsorship and addressed database use concerns raised by Jim Sadowski (DC/VA).

Tom Hayes gave an update on our USASA Insurance Programs. There are no concerns regarding the Personal Accident Insurance program, however, the General Liability Insurance has experienced a number of significant claims. We now have General Liability coverage of \$2M plus \$3M excess. Tom gave some pointers as to how to limit liability claims: 1) diligent use of a waiver; 2) proper discipline of players w/ prior incidents; and 3) emergency preparedness and plan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.